Kids are Dramatic

Team or Business Name: **Kids are Dramatic**

Team Members & all contact Information:

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The Idea:

Kids Are Dramatic is an entrepreneurial, nonprofit venture that seeks to stake an intervention in the educational system in the Colorado Springs community. Through the use of theatre arts, we create a medium for middle school students to express themselves, developing a pathway to emotional cognition. We believe that emotional cognition, the proposed theory of mounting one’s critical consciousness to better understand one’s behavior, is indispensable when looking to improve academic achievement, resolve disciplinary problems, and empower our youth to take ownership in their futures.

The problem of emotional cognition in the context of youth empowerment and academic achievement has received little attention amongst education policymakers as well as within the realm of education literature. Thus, beginning in September 2012, Kids Are Dramatic started a longitudinal study to further analyze the impact of theatre from the perception of the student on the emotional, school, and home climates. Through the intervention of a unique theatre arts curriculum, we expect to find that students who are consistently involved in the Kids Are Dramatic program will make great gains in their emotional growth.

As Kids Are Dramatic works to improve and curtail its theatre arts education programming to best fit the needs of middle school youth, we also offer an internship program to allow college students the opportunity to work with students directly, engage in the theories that are influential in classroom management practices, and design an independent project that seeks to better the Kids Are Dramatic organization. College students may choose to focus in instruction, research, or public relations as a part of the internship program. Since Kids Are Dramatic seeks to create the safest environment possible for our students, interns are expected to act professionally in every manner and volunteer on a weekly basis.

As an established organization with an exceptional rapport with Imagination Celebration, Mann Middle School, The Boys and Girls Club, Westside Community Center and The Colorado College Collaborative for Community Engagement, Kids Are Dramatic seeks to establish 501.c.3 status by the end of 2014. Our mission is to engage middle school students in their own lives, making theatre more than simply “playing pretend” and instead a juxtaposition of playing reality.

**Location where you plan to start your business?** Colorado Springs District 11, The Boys and Girls Club, Imagination Celebration, Westside Community Center

**Initial obstacles preventing you from starting your business:**

1. Financial planning for the future years of Kids Are Dramatic
2. Legal work to become an established nonprofit organization
3. Resources to establish a payroll and facilitate professional development of staff members